

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE CIVIL AFFAIRS REGIMENT



COLONEL ERNESTO L. SIRVAS
U.S. Army, Retired

Inducted April 20, 2023



Within his impressive 28-year U.S. Army career, Colonel Ernesto L. Sirvas has spearheaded and implemented programs that continue to have direct, positive impacts on the total U.S. Army Civil Affairs force.

Born in Peru and raised in Arizona, Col. Sirvas earned bachelor's degrees in political science and English and commissioned to serve in the field artillery branch from 1987 – 1996 then joined the Civil Affairs branch from 1996 - 2015.

At the beginning of his Civil Affairs career—with the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion (Special Operations) (Airborne)—Sirvas served four years as a team leader, operations officer, company executive officer, company commander, and logistics staff officer. During this time, he deployed to Asia, South America, Europe, and the Middle East to support various exercises and operations.

Sirvas' next assignment took him to Special Operations Command South at Roosevelt Roads Naval Station in Puerto Rico for four years, where he served as a Civil Affairs planner and command group executive officer. Col. Sirvas continued his career by commanding the U.S. Army Forces Battalion in support of Joint task Force Bravo at Soto Cano Airbase in Honduras and returned to the 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Special Operations) (Airborne) as deputy commanding officer.

In 2010, after a year at the U.S. Army War College, Sirvas was assigned to Regional Command West, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. There he coordinated and synchronized U.S. support to stability and governance efforts in the Afghan provinces of Herat, Rarah, Badghis, and Ghor, and advised the commander and staff on matters pertaining to stability and governance. He also worked with Spanish, Lithuanian, Italian, and U.S. governments and agencies to implement programs supporting International Security Force Assistance joint command lines of effort in western Afghanistan.

Sirvas returned to Fort Bragg to serve as the U.S. Army Special Operations Command Chief of Concepts, Experimentation, and Science and Technology. Additionally, he collaborated with U.S. Army Human Resources Command, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, and Department of the Army staff to implement personnel policies to mitigate the effects of a 25 percent force reduction in the Civil Affairs branch. Sirvas also directed the creation of a cross-organization planning team to review and develop recommendations to redesign the U.S. Army Reserve Civil Affairs structure to enhance the Soldiers' career path and their ability to support the conventional maneuver force commander. Furthermore, he directed the implementation of a Reserve Component Civil Affairs Captains' Career Course.

After retirement, and with the support of his wife, Sonia, and their four daughters, Sirvas continues to be of service to the military community. Through his volunteer work, provision of scholarships to military Family members, Soldier recognitions, donations to Family readiness groups, and assistance to Civil Affairs Soldiers and Families after traumatic events, Sirvas continues to exemplify selfless duty that will leave an indelible impression on the Army Corps.